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SENATE BILL 2730 By  
Person

HOUSE BILL 2538  
By Scroggs

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 4, relative to creating the offense of tampering with public utilities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 4, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

Section 39-14-414.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Public utility" means any entity that is owned or operated by a governmental entity and created or authorized by public act, private act or general law for the purpose of providing electricity, natural gas, water, sanitary sewer service, or any combination thereof, for sale to consumers in any particular service area, whether or not regulated by the Tennessee regulatory authority.

(2) "Tamper" means

(A) To introduce a contaminant into the product or service provided by a public utility with the intention of harming another; or

(B) To otherwise interfere with the operation of a public utility with the intention of harming another.

(b) It is an offense for a person to intentionally tamper with a public utility or any of the infrastructures necessary to support or produce the product or service provided by a public utility.

(c) It is an offense for a person to attempt to tamper or make a threat to tamper with a public utility or any of the infrastructures necessary to support or produce the product or service provided by a public utility.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude prosecution under any other applicable provision of law.

(e)

(1) A violation of subsection (b) is a Class D felony.

(2) A violation of subsection (c) is a Class E felony.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002, the public welfare requiring it.